

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM RESTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS REPORT, EVENING, JULY 12

NO. 5

WIRES

(1) REUTERS (NO BYLINE, FROM GENEVA) -- ...SALT TALKS RESUMED BETWEEN ... VANCE AND GROMYKO IN A CHILLY ATMOSPHERE THAT SEEMS BOUND TO WORSEN BECAUSE OF SOVIET DISSIDENT TRIALS. . .

. . . HODDING CARTER SAID VANCE WOULD HAND GROMYKO A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO BREZHNEV EXPRESSING AMERICAN CONCERN OVER THE TRIALS. HE WILL ALSO ASK FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE TIMING OF THE TRIALS -- CONCURRENT WITH THE TALKS HERE... THE SPOKESMAN WAS NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WOULD BE RAISED TODAY.
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A HIGH US OFFICIAL SAID SOVIET OFFICIALS INDICATED THE TRIALS OF SHCHARANSKIY...AND GINZBURG MIGHT BE OVER BY TOMORROW OR FRIDAY. GUILTY VERDICTS WOULD ADD NEW TENSIONS TO THE ALREADY STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION. . .

SPOKESMAN CARTER SAID HE WOULD NOT TRY TO DESCRIBE THE ATMOSPHERE IN TODAY'S MEETINGS BECAUSE THERE WAS NOTHING TO CHARACTERIZE. OTHER OFFICIALS DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE AS FORMAL.

SOVIET OFFICIALS TRIED TO BE AFFABLE AS THE TALKS OPENED BUT MR. VANCE WAS ABRUPT. . . DOBRYNIN ASKED JOKINGLY IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS NOT RICH ENOUGH TO BUY THE WHOLE BUILDING. MR. VANCE REPLIED TESTILY, "NO."

. . . US OFFICIALS SAID THE FOCUS WOULD BE ON RESTRICTIONS ON MODERNIZING EXISTING INTER-CONTINENTAL MISSILES, WHILE THE CONTENTIOUS QUESTION OF WHETHER TO INCLUDE THE SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER UNDER STRATEGIC ARMS RESTRICTIONS PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT A SUMMIT BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND BREZHNEV.

. . . A REPORTER ASKED GROMYKO IF HE SHARED CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES THAT THE SOVIET DISSIDENT TRIALS COULD AFFECT RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY. "YOU SAID TRIALS? I DO NOT WANT TO SPEAK ON THIS THING," HE REPLIED. WHEN THE REPORTER CONTINUED, MR. GROMYKO INTERRUPTED HIM. "DID YOU UNDERSTAND ME CORRECTLY?" THE SOVIET MINISTER ALSO DECLINED TO SAY HOW THE TALKS WERE GOING. "WE JUST STARTED. WE'VE HAD ONE MEETING. WE ARE NOT YET IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY PREDICTION," UNCLASSIFIED

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HE SAID.

(BELOW ADD-ON TO ABOVE PIECE)

GUTMAN FROM GENEVA -- VANCE RAISED U.S. CONCERN OVER SOVIET DISSIDENT TRIALS DURING TALKS TODAY... HE DECLINED TO SAY WHETHER HE HAD DELIVERED A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER...TO GROMYKO FOR BREZHNEV. WHEN ASKED IF HE HAD BROUGHT UP THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, HE TOLD REPORTERS, "IT WAS TOUCHED UPON." VANCE ALSO INTENDED TO ASK GROMYKO FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE TIMING AND PURPOSE OF THE TRIALS OF SHCHARANSKIY AND GINZBURG. . . FROM HIS REMARKS IT APPEARED VANCE WOULD TAKE UP THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AGAIN TOMORROW DURING THE FINAL SESSIONS. . . "WE'VE BEEN EXCHANGING VIEWS ON SALT. BOTH OF US HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE OTHER AND EXCHANGED THOUGHTS ON WHAT THE OTHER HAD TO SAY," VANCE SAID. "I WILL HAVE MORE...TOMORROW."

GROMYKO SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO SAY HOW THE TALKS WERE GOING.

(LATE GUTMAN ADD-ON SAID VANCE HAD CONVEYED "PERSONAL MESSAGE" FROM CARTER BUT HODDING CARTER WOULD NOT REVEAL CONTENT OR FORM OF MESSAGE.)

(2) AP (SCHWEID, FROM GENEVA) -- U.S. AND SOVIET NEGOTIATORS TRADED NEW WEAPONS CONTROL PROPOSALS TODAY IN A BID TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK BLOCKING A NEW TREATY.

THE SHADOW OF DISSIDENT TRIALS LOOMED OVER THE TALKS, WHICH OPENED WITHOUT MENTION OF U.S. DISPLEASURE OVER THE TRIALS. . . GROMYKO WAS CLEARLY IRRITATED WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE DISSIDENT TRIALS WERE IMPEDING THE PROGRESS OF THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS, AND DECLINED TO REPLY BEYOND SAYING: "TRIALS, WHAT TRIALS? I DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK ON THE SUBJECT. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME CORRECTLY?"

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VANCE TRIED TO PLAY DOWN THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. "IT WAS TOUCHED ON," HE SAID AT THE END OF THE DAY'S DELIBERATIONS.

BY CONTRAST, BOTH MEN REGISTERED DETERMINATION TO MAKE HEADWAY ON CONTROLLING U.S. AND SOVIET LONG RANGE BOMBERS AND INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES. . .

SOMETIME DURING THE TWO-DAY MEETING, VANCE IS EXPECTED TO GIVE GROMYKO A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER...A SPOKESMAN FOR VANCE SAID THE SECRETARY WOULD WAIT UNTIL LATER IN THE TALKS TO BRING UP THE SUBJECT OF THE TRIALS.

. . . A SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL SAID OBJECTIONS WITHIN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO VANCE'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO WERE DISMISSED BECAUSE ARMS LIMITATION WAS AN "IMPERATIVE" THAT COULD NOT BE DELAYED.

(3) UPI (ANDERSON, FROM GENEVA) -- VANCE HELD MORE THAN THREE HOURS OF "SERIOUS" TALKS WITH AN ANGRY GROMYKO ON HUMAN RIGHTS WEDNESDAY AND DELIVERED A PERSONAL LETTER FROM CARTER.

VANCE ALSO HAD AN "UNPRINTABLE" REACTION TO REMARKS BY U.N. AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG THAT THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN U.S. JAILS.

. . . STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DESCRIBED THE FOUR AND A HALF HOURS OF TALKS AS "SERIOUS AND BUSINESSLIKE" BUT WENT INTO NO DETAILS.

. . . GROMYKO ANGRILY REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE TRIALS OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY AND ALEXANDER
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GINZBURG WHEN HE ARRIVED FOR THE SECOND SESSION.

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DESCRIBED VANCE'S REACTION TO AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY YOUNG IN (WHICH) YOUNG SAID, "THERE

ARE HUNDREDS AND PERHAPS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES WHO MIGHT BE DESCRIBED AS POLITICAL PRISONERS."

PUBLICLY, VANCE'S SPOKESMAN TOLD NEWSMEN ONLY THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND VANCE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE STATEMENTS MADE IN YOUNG'S INTERVIEW.

TV

(1) NBC -- ANCHORMAN BRINKLEY

LEAD: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE IS IN GENEVA TO DISCUSS ARMS LIMITATION WITH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO BUT THE WHOLE ATMOSPHERE IS STRAINED AND STICKY AND DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE TRIALS OF THE TWO DISSIDENTS IN RUSSIA. WHEN REPORTERS ASKED GROMYKO ABOUT THE TRIALS, THE ANGRILY REFUSED TO DISCUSS THEM. HERE ARE TWO REPORTS:

JOHN COCHRAN, GENEVA: ...TWO PROS MUCH TOO EXPERIENCED TO GIVE ANY SIGN IN PUBLIC THAT SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS MAY BE AS STRAINED AS AT ANY TIME SINCE THE COLD WAR. BUT IN THE CAPITOLS, IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL. (INAUDIBLE) THE AMERICAN DELEGATION. AS THE HOME TEAM, IT WAS UP TO THE AMERICANS TO MAKE THE FIRST PROPOSALS FOR LIMITING NUCLEAR ARMS. SECRETARY VANCE WAS EXPECTED TO COME UP WITH AT LEAST ONE NEW IDEA THE RUSSIANS WOULD NOT LIKE -- A PLAN TO PROTECT AMERICAN MISSILES BY MOVING THEM OCCASIONALLY TO NEW LOCATIONS. AT MID AFTERNOON GROMYKO RETURNED WITH THE SOVIET COUNTER-PROPOSAL. GROMYKO ALSO KNEW THAT VANCE MIGHT BRING UP THE ISSUE OF SOVIET DIS-UNCLASSIFIED

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SIDENTS AND HE DID. VANCE TOLD GROMYKO OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DISPLEASURE AT THE TRIALS OF THE DISSIDENTS AND THE HARASSMENT OF AMERICAN NEWSMEN. THE DISPUTE OVER HUMAN RIGHTS HAS MADE AN ARMS AGREEMENT MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. AMERICAN SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER CALLED TODAY'S TALKS "BUSINESSLIKE AND SERIOUS." THAT'S THE DIPLOMATIC WAY OF SAYING "NO PROGRESS."

TONIGHT AT A GENEVA SYNAGOGUE, THERE WAS A SERVICE FOR ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY. HIS WIFE WAS THERE. TOMORROW SHE WILL MEET WITH THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE AFTER VANCE CONCLUDES HIS TALKS WITH GROMYKO. MRS. SHCHARANSKY WANTS VANCE TO ASK PRESIDENT CARTER TO DO MORE TO FREE HER HUSBAND.

(2) CBS (KALB FROM GENEVA)

MUDD: THE TREASON TRIAL OF SOVIET DISSIDENT SCHARANSKIY CONTINUED TODAY IN MOSCOW BUT IT WAS IN GENEVA AND WASHING-

TON THAT MOST OF THE TRIAL'S ATTENTION GOT FOCUSSED. IN GENEVA IT OVERSHADOWED THE ARMS TALKS BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND F.M. GROMYKO. . .

KALB: WITH THE SCHARANSKIY TRIAL PROVIDING AN ALMOST CONSTANT DISTRACTION, VANCE AND GROMYKO SPENT ALMOST 4 HOURS DISCUSSING WAYS OF BREAKING THE IMPASSE ON ANOTHER STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT. THEY FOCUSSED ON ONE OF THE TWO REMAINING ISSUES, HOW TO DEFINE AND THEN CONTROL NEW MISSILE SYSTEMS. THE OTHER ISSUE, WHICH RELATES TO A LONG-RANGE SOVIET BOMBER CALLED THE BACKFIRE, WASN'T EVEN DISCUSSED. THEY REGISTERED SOME PROGRESS, AND DEPENDING ON OVER-NIGHT INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW THEY MIGHT APPROACH AN UNDERSTANDING ON THIS ONE CRITICAL PROBLEM TOMORROW.
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DURING A PRIVATE SESSION BETWEEN THE TWO MINISTERS, VANCE CONVEYED A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO SOVIET PRESIDENT BREZHNEV URGING LENIENCY TOWARD SCHARANSKIY.

AN EMBARRASSED GROMYKO AVOIDED HIS USUAL BANTERING WITH NEWSMEN, BUT HE COULD NOT ESCAPE THE TRIALS COMPLETELY:

KALB (ON FILM INTERVIEWING GROMYKO): MR. MINISTER, COULD YOU TELL US -- THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES WHO ARE CONCERNED THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE TRIALS IN RUSSIA MIGHT HURT THE OPPORTUNITY OF REACHING A SALT AGREEMENT --

GROMYKO: THE TRIALS?

KALB: -- MIGHT HURT THE OPPORTUNITY OF REACHING A SALT AGREEMENT. WHAT IS YOUR OWN VIEW?

GROMYKO: I DO NOT WANT TO SPEAK ON THIS ONE.

KALB: DO YOU THINK --

GROMYKO: DID YOU UNDERSTAND ME CORRECTLY?

KALB (AGAIN OVER-VOICING FILM CLIP): SCHARANSKIY'S WIFE AVITAL, HERE FOR HER MEETING TOMORROW WITH SECRETARY VANCE, JOINED A DEMONSTRATION TONIGHT. SHE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SHE IS THINKING ABOUT ASKING FOR A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, PERHAPS IN WEST GERMANY WHERE THE PRESIDENT IS HEADING TOMORROW.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER THEN FOUND HIMSELF ENSNARLED IN A NEW FLAP RELATING TO THE SCHARANSKIY CASE, FOCUSSED ON COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO U.N. AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG -- COMMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT MRS.
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SCHARANSKIY CANNOT DICTATE U.S. POLICY AND THAT THERE ARE HUNDREDS, EVEN THOUSANDS, OF AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES YOUNG WOULD REGARD AS POLITICAL PRISONERS. THAT APPEARED TO UNDERCUT THE ADMINISTRATION'S EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SCHARANSKIY. SECRETARY VANCE WAS DESCRIBED AS FURIOUS WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT YOUNG'S REPORTED COMMENTS, AND SPOKESMAN CARTER STRESSED THAT AMERICAN POLICY IN THIS REGARD IS SET BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND NOT BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG.

(NOTE: CBS PIECE FROM BOB SIMON IN TEL AVIV, WHICH FOLLOWED ABOVE KALB REPORT, STATED THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAVE AGREED TO CONTINUE PEACE TALKS BEYOND LONDON, THAT NEW TALKS WILL BE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS LEVEL AND VANCE WILL ATTEND, THAT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN EL ALISH IN OCCUPIED SINAI, AND THAT DATE FOR MEETING IS TO BE FIXED IN LONDON. REPORT GOES ON TO SAY ALL THIS WAS WORKED OUT "BEHIND THE SCENES" IN WASHINGTON, JERUSALEM AND CAIRO AND AMERICANS WILL "PRESENT A PAPER WHICH U.S. SEES AS A SUMMARY OF THE POINTS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT.")

(3) ABC (DUNSMORE FROM GENEVA)

ANCHOR JENNINGS: THE SHADOW OF THE DISSIDENT TRIALS WE HAVE DISCOVERED SINCE THEY BEGAN IS LONG AND WIDE. TODAY IT WAS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT AS AMERICAN AND SOVIET NEGOTIATORS SAT DOWN IN SWITZERLAND TO TACKLE THE ALREADY DIFFICULT ISSUE OF ARMS CONTROL.

DUNSMORE, GENEVA: IT WAS THE SIXTH VANCE/GROMYKO ENCOUNTER IN 18 MONTHS AND AS USUAL IN SPITE OF WHATEVER TENSIONS THERE MAY BE, THEIR PUBLIC FACES WERE PLEASANT.
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THE MORNING SESSION WAS TAKEN UP BY AN AMERICAN PRESENTATION ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION. AFTER HEARING WHAT VANCE HAD TO SAY, GROMYKO ASKED FOR A RECESS SO IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT THERE WERE SOME NEW AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND THAT THEY DEALT WITH THE ISSUE OF LIMITATIONS ON NEW MISSILE SYSTEMS. WHEN GROMYKO RETURNED FOR THE AFTERNOON SESSION, HE REMAINED IN GOOD SPIRITS THOUGH HE WAS LESS SO WHEN ASKED ABOUT HOW THE DISSIDENT TRIALS MIGHT AFFECT THE ATMOSPHERE HERE. (FILM CLIP OF KALB/GROMYKO EXCHANGE COVERED IN CBS REPORT ABOVE.)

AFTER THE SECOND SESSION, THE TWO WERE EQUALLY NON-COMMITTAL AS NEITHER SIDE SEEMS TO WANT TO MAKE PROPAGANDA STATEMENTS, THAT MAY SUGGEST THAT SOME PROGRESS

IS BEING MADE. IT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE ARMS CONTROL
ISSUES AND NOT THE TRIALS HAVE BEEN THE MAJOR SUBJECTS

ALTHOUGH VANCE AND GROMYKO DID HAVE AN URGENT MEETING IN
WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO BREZHNEV ABOUT THE
DISSIDENTS WAS PASSED ALONG. MEANWHILE THERE WAS A NEW
WRINKLE HERE IN GENEVA BASED ON A FRENCH INTERVIEW WITH
AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG IN WHICH HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING
THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE US.
SECRETARY VANCE IS SAID TO BE FURIOUS ABOUT THIS, BELIEV-
ING THAT IT UNDERCUTS PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITION WITH
THE SOVIETS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. CHRISTOPHER

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